Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 19 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Friday 20 Jan 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 18 Jan 2023 at 15:54

Confidence: High for remaining cold through Thursday and Friday with plenty of dry and bright weather around and for becoming milder over the weekend, but lower for details from Saturday.

Headline for Thursday 19 Jan 2023: Sunny spells and a few snow showers. Very cold with occasionally strong winds

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 19 Jan 2023

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
Low Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability							
10%	20%	40%	30%	10%	10%	<05%	<05%

Forecast for Thursday 19 Jan 2023

Weather: Long clear spells overnight with a few snow showers around, these becoming heavier and more frequent towards the end of the night. A rather cloudy start to the day with occasionally heavy snow showers these soon becoming lighter and fewer and further between, and increasingly confined to western fells, with some good sunny spells developing. The evening looks dry with long clear spells. Lying snow is expected to blow and drift in the strong winds.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 25% improving to 75% through the morning

Low cloud and visibility: Periods of cloud above about 450-600m becoming more occasional above 600-750m through the morning. Away from cloud visibility very good but falling to a kilometre or less in snow showers and blowing or drifting snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Met Office Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 19 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	25/31 NW	22/27 W	21/26 W	21/26 W	21/27 NW	23/28 NW	26/32 NW	25/31 NW	25/31 NW
600	16/24 NW	16/22 W	15/20 W	15/22 W	16/24 NW	16/24 W	19/28 W	17/25 W	17/25 W
300	6/19 NW	6/17 NW	6/16 W	6/16 W	8/19 NW	7/19 NW	7/20 NW	7/19 NW	7/18 NW
Valley	7/20 NW	7/17 NW	6/15 NW	6/15 W	9/20 NW	8/18 NW	9/21 NW	8/19 NW	8/18 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-5/-14	-5/-14	-5/-14	-5/-13	-4/-12	-4/-12	-4/-13	-4/-13	-4/-13
600	-3/-10	-3/-10	-3/-10	-3/-9	-2/-8	-2/-8	-2/-9	-2/-9	-3/-9
300	-2/-5	-1/-5	-1/-5	-1/-4	1/-3	1/-2	-0/-4	-0/-4	-1/-4
Valley	1/-3	1/-2	1/-2	1/-1	3/-0	4/0	2/-1	2/-1	2/-2
Freezing Level*	100m	200m	200m	200m	400m	400m	300m	300m	300m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Valley temperatures around minus 1 or 2 Celsius at dawn. Surfaces expected to remain frozen at almost all levels through the day and feeling bitterly cold, especially at higher elevations. Strong glare off lying snow in sunshine.

Forecast for Friday 20 Jan 2023

Weather: Dry with long clear spells then a largely sunny day. Remaining dry with long clear spells through the evening. Feeling less cold than recent days as winds ease with significant glare from sunshine off the lying snow.

Maximum wind: Northwesterly 25mph decreasing 10-15mph by dawn then variable, less than 10mph, by midday

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Close to 100%

Low cloud and visibility: Little or no cloud is expected below the summits with very good or excellent visibility.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around minus 2 or 3 Celsius at dawn and later, rising to plus 3 or 4 Celsius by early afternoon
At 800m: Around minus 4 Celsius
Freezing level: All levels, briefly rising to 300-400m

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 18 January 2023. Location: Helvellyn Summit at 1300. Full report: Overnight snow showers down to valley level added a marginal amount to the snowpack. Otherwise underfoot conditions were similar to Tuesday albeit with slightly more ice and harder snow on paths. This was located on popular routes where the snow has been compacted and also at lower elevations along drainage lines where there has been a daytime thaw and overnight freeze. Given the number of walkers out today and Wednesday's overnight forecast, these two trends are likely to continue so walkers out on Thursday should expect, and be prepared to encounter, more ice on paths than experienced and described today. There is a skittering of snow down to valley level, although there was a slow daytime thaw below 300m. The snow depth rises with height although actual depth encountered varies considerably from little on windswept areas to deep drifts able to swallow a 70cm ice axe (although such depth is definitely the exception) with an extremely rough average of between 10 and 15cm at 900m. The snowpack was generally soft powder and breaking trail through the deeper drifts was arduous and energy sapping. On occasions the snowpack had developed a, generally non-weight bearing, crust which helped to limit the amount of spindrift being blown about on the gusty wind. The windswept summit plateau was covered in harder snow and some ice with softer snow in more sheltered spots. Given the sharp overnight frost, there was ice on paths at all levels; however, the majority and more problematic of which was often located at lower elevations along drainage lines where there has been a daytime thaw and overnight freeze. On popular routes there was also some harder compacted snow and ice. With the changes in wind direction, cornices (snow overhangs) can exist above many steep aspects but especially those facing north and east – such as along Helvellyn's summit plateau. These had footprints (some raised) running along the edge far, far too close to the drop. Just because cornice collapses under people's weight are thankfully rare in the UK does not mean that they cannot happen in the Lakes, so please keep off any such snow covered edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. With a summit temperature around midday of minus 3 and windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) an even chillier minus 12 degrees C, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Low cloud when combined with deep snow obscuring ground features (including steep drops) necessitates excellent navigational skills. Crampons and ice axe (plus experience in winter mountaineering) are essential for those attempting, or traversing, steep & exposed routes (such as the Helvellyn edges). Microspikes and trekking poles are strongly recommended for any walkers heading above the snowline owing to the amount of ice and potential to encounter harder and compacted snow. Goggles were certainly useful today to lessen the sting of windblown spindrift. Climbers: the snowpack is generally very soft so please check that routes are in condition before attempting them to avoid damage to rare alpine habitats. Please see the BMC "White Guide" for details.For those interested in the weather stats, it was less windy on the summit (even having periods of calm) compared with the ascent and descent. Temperature: minus 2.9 C, Maximum wind speed 22.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 11.8 C, Average wind speed: 9.5 mph.

Issued at: 1554 on Wed 18 Jan 2023

© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.